

THE WOMEN OF ISRAEL. By Grace Aguilar. In two volumes. New York: D. Appleton & Co. For sale by R. Farnham.

This work, which we had but had time to glance over, seems to be written from a noble aim, and in the glowing yet chaste style of the devout Jewess. She seems to have been particularly fitted for the writing of such a book; for, though her stories are many of them admirable, a female writer, however well qualified, is not something unusual—an anomaly and a wonder.

Here she is entirely at home, and writes with poetical beauty, earnestness, strength, and religious fervor. Some of her portraits are drawn with much vivacity. She can fling herself into the noble types of womanhood which she represents—on—sing with Miriam, gleam with Ruth with Esther, while ever as she dwells on the deeds and destiny of her race, the great prophetic heart of a Deborah throbs through her words.

G. G.

LIVES OF THE QUEENS OF SCOTLAND AND ENGLAND. Stories connected with the Lives of Queens of Great Britain and Ireland. By Mrs. T. B. T. New York: Harper & Brothers. For sale by Frank Taylor.

This we suppose is a companion work to the Queens of England, by the same author. Miss Strickland is a charming writer, and an indefatigable historian; and this book, like that preceding, must be both interesting and valuable.

G. G.

LETTERS FROM THREE CONVENTIONS. By Mr. the Arkansas Correspondent of the Louisville Journal. For sale by R. Farnham, Washington.

We have received this pleasant volume at the hands of Mr. Farnham, J. A., and were once impressed by its evidently unaffected gaiety, feeling and the simple force and beauty of its expression. The author, though apparently young, and perhaps a mere man of the world, sought the Holy Land with the spirit of a pilgrim—felt his whole nature shaken and his soul exalted by the divine sublimities, the simple grandeur which waited upon the lowly and peaceful grotto of the God of redemption.

With faith and fervent religious ardor, he seems to have filled those sacred places “which have hallowed in song” as the scenes of terrible or horrid manifestations of God’s power, when in the early days, through fire, and flood, and earthquake, and pestilence, and famine, and the solemn voices of priest and prophet, He spoke to his chosen people. Too many modern tourists at the bidding of the Slaveholders, are sneaking upon the Georgia platform, and we suppose a majority of the rest will soon follow.

Let us not forget, that the chief agents in this march of degradation are the Whigs and Democratic Parties of the North, which, if we mistake not, are most grossly misrepresenting the masses of the people.

LETTER FROM CALIFORNIA.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 14, 1850.
The Editor of the National Era.

“I am a man of the world,” which has swept from the face of the earth as many of our citizens came well nigh breaking the correspondence between us, and did in fact prevent me from writing you by the last mail. By the goodness of a kind Providence I escaped the fate which has fallen upon others, and am now in the enjoyment of robust California health, and hope to be able to note the things that occur here in some time to come.

The source has nearly disappeared from among us, and we are left with the same disease as it is about leaving a community, it has attacked and carried to the world unknown of our most prominent citizens. Among them were H. H. Bigelow, Esq., late mayor of Sacramento city, Wm. A. Woodruff, Henry Howson, and others, merchants and capitalists of our city. The stranger and the poor have, however, been the greatest sufferers. Daily, the road to the city cemetery has been thronged with corse in which, it is said, the dead were laid out in coffins to California with a heart-broken of hope, was going to his last resting-place. Sometimes one or two who knew the deceased followed him to his grave, but often for the driver, horse, cart, and coffin, composed the sad procession.

The grave-yard, opened only last July, at present contains over a thousand graves, and daily is filling up. This is the sickly season of California.

The weather for the last month has been the mildest ever known here in California. A continual series of rain, followed by days of mild air and sunshine, has entirely changed the appearance of the surface of the earth. The dry and parched-up soil is now green, and budding with wild flowers of various hues. Many who have settled upon land in the vicinity of the city are now engaged in ploughing and sowing a winter crop of wheat, barley, potatoes, onions, and really every variety of garden vegetables, all of which will grow here in the spring. The result of the operation of the climate of California is to be seen in the fact that in a few days by Mrs. Bushnell, the renowned drayman, another by Dr. Bushnell; another by Dr. Fowler, on Phrenology and its cognate topics; and the promised book, detailing all manner of wonderful manifestations, by Cogshall, of the *Daily Times*, soon to make its appearance. Rev. Mr. Sturtevant of the Swedish church, has been giving a series of discourses on the moral subjects, of which the crowds have been so great that many have gone away, unable to get admission.

In those who have been here from the reports, he is careful to make every thing at least in favor of the peculiar views of his own church. Not so the editor of the *Advertiser* in these respects, and of course of course, in his theories, I cannot speak of them in any other than the most doubtful terms; but as indications of the progress of inquiry, and the tendency of our age to seek after truth, and strange, they are worthy of notice and record, at least, as a part of the history of our times.

The weather for the last month has been the mildest ever known here in California.

A continual series of rain, followed by days of mild air and sunshine, has entirely changed the appearance of the surface of the earth.

The great city is daily growing greater, and the number of inhabitants is rapidly increasing.

He will sit at present to become a second Venice, as most of the buildings are now in the hands of ship-chandler and lumber dealers.

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